



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20223

May 25, 2005

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Conyers and Mr. Nadler:

Thank you for your letter to Director W. Ralph Basham which transmitted your concerns on obtaining information from individuals for clearance purposes.

As you know, the U.S. Secret Service utilizes a wide variety of security measures to ensure that mandated protective responsibilities are fulfilled. One such measure is a computer-based name check for individuals seeking access to locations in proximity to a Secret Service protectee. In order to "name check" individuals through various law enforcement criminal/intelligence records databases, five personal identifiers were often requested so that the searches could be properly conducted. One of those identifiers was race. We did not seek this information to engage in racial profiling, but rather to attempt to secure the most accurate search results.

Recently, the Secret Service in consultation with the Department of Justice concluded that initial name check results can be obtained with just four identifiers. They are as follows:

- *Name
- *Date of birth
- *Social Security Number
- *Sex

I hope this information is useful to you. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-406-5676.

Sincerely,

Conrad A. Everett
Deputy Assistant Director